



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 9th January 2026

‘With Christ at the centre, we live, love and learn together, reaching out to all.
‘Only our best is good enough’

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back, and we hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and joyful Christmas holiday. As we begin this new term, we would like to wish you a very happy New Year and thank you for your continued support of our school community. We look forward to working closely with you in the months ahead and to an exciting term filled with learning, growth, and new opportunities for all our children.



BE PREPARED ON MONDAY

Just a reminder that children need to bring in the following on a Monday only:

Book Bag with reading book and spelling book and school PE in a drawstring bag.

Children do not need to bring in their bags on any other day, as this helps with the extra space and arrangements across the site.



SCHOOL PE KITS

Can we please ensure that all school PE kits are brought into school every Monday. Children can leave their kits in school until the end of the half term. If you would like your child to bring their kit home on a Friday, they must bring it into school the following Monday. The children do have set PE days however if the weather changes and it rains, the teachers may move the class timetable around at the last minute and do PE on a different day. So, it is vital that the children have access to their PE kits immediately. PE kits must be in a separate **draw string bag** to help with storage and space in the cloakroom. We have some on sale in the office.

ATTENDANCE NEWS

The race continues for our Pizza Party competition for attendance for this term. Remember any class that gets 100% receives 2 green marks that week!

Attendance for this week is as follows:

Green – 97%+, Yellow – 94%+, Red - 93.9% & below

| Class | % score | Rating | Total amount of green won this term |
|----------|---------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Year 6 | 94% | Yellow | 0 |
| Year 6/5 | 98% | Green | 1 |
| Year 5 | 99% | Green | 1 |
| Year 4 | 98% | Green | 1 |
| Year 3/4 | 96% | Yellow | 0 |
| Year 3 | 95% | Yellow | 0 |
| Year 2 | 95% | Yellow | 8 |
| Year 1/2 | 99% | Green | 1 |
| Year 1 | 100% | Green | 2 |
| Rec K | 96% | Yellow | 0 |
| Rec M | 99% | Green | 1 |

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting for the School Council members will be next Friday 16th January 2026 at 8:30am with Mr Quigley.



FREE GAELIC FOOTBALL

Please see an email received regarding free sessions for children in Rec to Yr 2 if any of the children are interested.

We are proud to announce our Winter Gaelic Football programme every Wednesday, 6–7pm, at Liverpool College Indoor Sports Hall ⚽

It's FREE and aimed at boys and girls in Reception to Year 2 who may want to try a new sport or get active with plenty of fun games and football!

Feel free to bring a friend along too 🎾 💙 💛



UNIFORM REMINDERS

Just a reminder of the rule of children not coming into school wearing trainers and wearing **black school shoes only** and not wearing jewellery, nail varnish or acrylic nails. The only items of jewellery allowed to be worn are a wristwatch and stud earrings (which must be removed for a PE lesson). Acrylic nails are not to be worn in school as they pose a health and safety hazard and are not part of our school uniform policy.

Thank you for your support.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Just a reminder of the preparation programme organised by the catechists at Holy Family church. Any child in Year 4 or above is very welcome to take part in the programme. There is no time limit to completing the programme so families can start when they are ready and work through it at their own pace. **Registration forms are available from a catechist at the end of every Mass of the last week of the month.**

Please note you must produce your child's baptism certificate.

SPRING TERM ATTENDANCE LEAGUE

Our Spring term attendance league has now started, and the winning class will win a dominoes pizza party at the end of this term. We hope to see lots of greens on the scoreboard and ask for your support in maintaining good school attendance for your child.

Any child who achieves 98% and above will be rewarded with our Spring term attendance certificate and prize. So, if your child missed out on Autumn, please aim high and try to win this reward for the Spring term.

STARS ON THE DOORS



Throughout the term, classes have the chance to win gold stars for their class that are placed on classroom doors. The winning class will be the class with the most gold stars on the door and they will be given a special whole class reward.

During break and lunch times, classes have the opportunity to win silver stars. The teacher on duty will reward the best class or classes with a silver star.

Silver stars can also be awarded during assemblies. When a class wins 5 silver stars, this can be exchanged for a gold star.

Silver stars can also be won, if a class has 100% attendance each day. Gold stars can be won for the whole class if the children have completed exceptional work, showed impeccable behaviour and/or are living out our school vision consistently. This might be seen during lessons or lunchtime.

THURSDAY 15th JANUARY 2026 - £1 LUNCH

Please note that we will also have the vegetarian, jacket potato and sandwich option on Thursday and Choice one will be the option on the poster below.



Instagram Teen Accounts - update

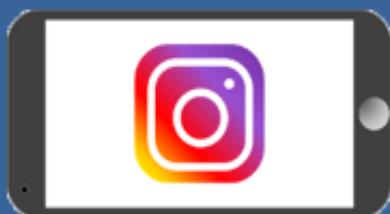
You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account. Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls, and send disappearing messages.

Teen accounts are automatically set up for users aged 13 – 17. Instagram have announced that teens will now see content similar to content that they would see in a PG-13 movie.

Instagram have also updated their policies around content to include “hiding or not recommending posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, and additional content that could encourage potentially harmful behaviors”

Finally, for parents who would like to apply more stringent settings, Instagram are also introducing a new, stricter setting called ‘Limited Content.’ This setting will mean your child is not able to see, leave, or receive comments under posts as well.

You can read about the updates here: <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/instagram-teen-content-safety-pg-13>



Playing games online

Does your child play games online? We have outlined some risks that you should consider:

Chatting to strangers / risk of inappropriate language

Some games will allow communication via text chat, direct messages or chatting. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off and/or the option to restrict bad language, so make sure settings appropriate to your child are applied. If your child is playing online with strangers, then you need to be aware that there is a risk of grooming. Some games do allow you to restrict communication to ‘friends only,’ however you would need to monitor that their online friends are real life friends. It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players.



Cyberbullying

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect. Other forms of cyberbullying whilst playing games could be excluding others, criticising the ability of other players and ganging up on others.

In app purchases

Many games include the option to purchase additional items/ subscriptions so ensure you do not have payment cards saved or set up restrictions/ a password to approve purchases.

What can I do?

- **Set up parental controls** - as well as setting up appropriate parental controls through the game's settings, ensure you have set them up on the console/device your child is playing on.
- **Check age ratings** - before buying the game, check that your child is old enough to play it. All games will either have a PEGI rating or be rated by the App Store/Google Play.
- **Chat to your child regularly** about the risks above so that they are aware of what can happen online and remind them to always talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns

Further information

CEOP provides further guidance and support regarding this topic:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

Snapchat

Snapchat is a popular social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time, and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

Key Concerns

There are potential risks such as:

- the risk of your child viewing content that is not appropriate for their age.
- location sharing (via Snap Map).
- cyberbullying.
- contact from strangers.
- excessive screen time – children may have a fear of missing out (FOMO) as well as pressure to maintain "streaks".
- "disappearing" messages can lead to more risky behaviour and a "false sense of security." These messages could be screenshot or another device used to take a photo, so they're not actually deleted as the sender believes. The image could then be shared.
- in app purchases.



Parental Controls / Safety settings

Snapchat's Family Centre is a set of parental controls and includes tools such as allowing you to:

- see who your child is friends with.
- see who your child has sent messages (not the contents of conversations though), photos or videos to in the last week.
- view a list of group members for groups that your child has been active in.
- restrict content to limit access.
- report any accounts that you are concerned about.

You can learn more about Family Centre here:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls?lang=en-GB>

If your child is using Snapchat, then make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up, including who can see their location and who can contact them. Also ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

More information

For more detailed advice and information:

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>
- <https://parents.snapchat.com/safeguards-for-teens>

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Family Smart Start

Family Smart Start is a free toolkit designed to help you and your child navigate the milestone of getting their first phone. The toolkit provides support on how to set up their new phone, how to talk to your child about digital safety and a template family agreement. Find out more here:

<https://familysmartstart.com/>

Cyber security

Cyber security is the process of protecting your information and data whilst online against scams and cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks are the process of maliciously targeting individuals or organisations to disable networks or steal data for example.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have an area on their website with guidance to help protect you and your family. The guidance includes how to manage your digital footprint online, information about anti-virus software as well as top tips for staying online such as:

- Using a strong password
- Setting up 2step verification

You can find the resources here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/you-your-family>

The NCSC also provide advice on what you should do if you are the target of a scam or cyber-attack. Find out more here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/respond-recover/you>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the

translate tool on our web version:

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/january-2026-primary/>